



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY
A California State Agency

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***Request for Approval of Resolution to enter into an Interagency Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board to Support the Implementation of Best Management Practices in the Delta:
A Comprehensive Pesticide Management Project***

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board approve Resolution 2018-05 to enter into an interagency agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) in the amount of \$399,400 to support the Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the Delta: A Comprehensive Pesticide Management Project.

Recommendation Description

The Sacramento- San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Delta Conservancy), in coordination with the California Land Stewardship Institute, the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition, and the San Joaquin and Delta Water Quality Coalition will implement a suite of best management practices to reduce non-point source pollution and improve water quality in the Delta.

This project will implement the Delta-specific Fish Friendly Farming Program on up to 10,000 acres of farm land and construct a suite of major water quality projects. The Delta-specific FFF program comprehensively reviews pesticide and fertilizer pollutant pathways and applies BMPs to reduce pollutant loading, particularly for organophosphate pesticides, pyrethroids, and fertilizers. The types of major water quality projects include those such as: return irrigation flow and drainage water settling basins; irrigation water use improvements; and sediment filtration improvements such as filter strips and vegetated field borders.

The Delta Conservancy will develop a contract for the implementation the Delta-specific Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) Program. Staff will bring the scope of work and contract to the Board for consideration at the January Board Meeting. The scope will include:

- a. FFF Program Enrolment: Coordinate with agricultural organizations including farm bureaus, grower associations, the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition, and the San Joaquin County and Delta Water Quality Coalition to conduct outreach to and encourage enrollment in the FFF program.
- b. BMP Implementation: Provide technical assistance through site assessment and mapping for enrolled sites, and will work with grower to implement BMPs.

- c. Certification: Train representatives of enrolling agencies on the details of the FFF program BMPs and the mapping, assessment, and certification processes. Conduct certifications in conjunction with landowners/managers and agencies. Compile certification letters when received and issue certificates to landowner/manager.
- d. Review Major Water Quality Projects: Prepare a list of potential major projects with locations and types of projects based on site assessments. Form a Technical Advisory Committee to review projects.
- e. Major Water Quality Projects Implementation: Complete a landowner agreement for each high priority project and obtain any necessary permits.
- f. Pollutant Load Estimate: Prepare a pollutant load reduction estimate for enrolled sites.

Background

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) is impaired by diazinon and chlorpyrifos, two organophosphorus pesticides listed on the Clean Water Act, Section 303(d) in 2006. The Central Valley Water Board amended the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins to adopt an implementation strategy to bring dischargers of diazinon and chlorpyrifos into compliance with water quality objectives. This project will implement a mechanism for long term reduction in nonpoint source pesticide pollutants of diazinon, chlorpyrifos, pyrethroids, and nutrients through coordination efforts with growers to change cultivation and land and water management practices

The Delta Reform Act of 2009 established the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy and includes three relevant mandates; (1) to protect and improve water quality; (2) protect, conserve, and restore the region's physical, agricultural, cultural, historical, and living resources; and (3) promote environmental education.

The proposed project is consistent with the Delta Conservancy's 2017-2022 Strategic Plan:

- Goal 2, Delta Ecosystem Viability
 - Objective 2: Strengthen the coordination of water quality monitoring, data integration, and implementation of best management practices in partnership with existing Delta watershed efforts.

Contact

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